



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

"Protecting You and Your Community"

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TRANSMITTAL #2

January 19, 2005

To: Workforce Development Council

From: Gail Cushman, Education Program Director, Idaho Dept of Correction

Subject: Idaho's Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative

Action Requested: None—information only

Attachment: Update on Reentry for Idaho Dept of Correction

The Idaho Dept of Correction is continuing to develop programs and partnerships in accordance with its needs. In the past year it has developed a strong collaboration with the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, developed a workforce readiness program for offenders, as well as a workforce skills program. It is continuing with the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative through the US Office of Justice Program (the Going Home Grant) and assisting with the Access to Recovery Program.

Update on Reentry for Idaho Dept of Correction

Workforce Readiness Program: The offender involvement in the Workforce Readiness Program has steadily increased from 211 students in July 2004 to 664 in December 2004. The program includes soft skill classes, such as communication skills and work ethics, as well as work skills, including plumbing, carpentry, computers, and landscaping. All students must have achieved a GED or have been excluded for a GED certificate by their case managers. Idaho Dept of Correction tests for over 500 GEDs each year.

Accreditation: Robert Janss School continues to be an accredited high school, with learning options through Professional Technical Schools, including Boise State, Lewis Clark State College, Idaho State University, Eastern Idaho Technical College, and College of Southern Idaho. The Idaho Dept of Correction as recently graduated 16 offenders from National Center for Construction Education and Research.

New Courses: The Idaho Dept of Correction has submitted a grant proposal for nursing education that will be taught to female offenders through Idaho State University (if approved).

IDOC and Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) collaboration: The IDVR assigned a 1 full-time Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to work in the prison complex south of Boise and 1 ½ time counselor to work in the women's prison in Pocatello to prepare offender for VR services prior to release. IDVR has also assigned 1 full time VR counselor to the District 4 office to assist offenders with access to VR services.

IDOC Reentry Teams: In the fall of last year the IDOC developed Reentry Teams in North, Southwest, and Eastern Idaho. Team members include reentry officers, case managers, Parole Commission hearing officers, prison and district office management, and other stakeholders who cooperate to develop release plans for offenders.

Access to Recovery Idaho ATR-I: IDOC in cooperation with many other agencies, private treatment providers, cultural organizations and the faith-based community cooperative with each other to deliver substance abuse services through a 22 million dollar grant received by Health and Welfare.

Reentry Needs: A recent study done by the State of Georgia has identified four criminogenic areas to target to reduce the incidence of offenders returning to prison. The four are Education, Employment, Stable Living Environment and Best Practices Treatment Programs. To reduce the incidence of offenders, Idaho Dept of Correction (Programs Division) needs:

- Placement options for the offenders who are getting out of incarceration
- Partnerships with industry leaders
- Additional training from industries that need workers
- Communication from industries that will accept former inmates as workers
- To affect the recidivism rate of offenders not qualified for VR services, the IDOC and the State Employment Service need to cooperate to deliver employment services prior to an offender leaving prison.